

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**1. (Currently Amended)** A method for reducing caking tendency, dust formation, ~~and and,~~ foaming tendencies when in aqueous media, of urea granules, where the method ~~comprises~~ consists of adding a compound to the surface of the urea granules,

wherein the additive ~~comprises~~ consists of a carboxylic acid compound with the general formula XY-(Z)-COOH, in which Z is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon with 1-25 carbon atoms, and X and Y are selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom or a polar organic functional group, and wherein the additive is added as a solution in a polar solvent to the urea granulates, which are subsequently dried.

**2. (Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the polar solvent is water.

**3. (Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein Z has 2-5 carbon atoms.

**4. (Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the polar organic functional group is selected from the group consisting of a carboxylic acid group, a hydroxyl group, an amine group and an acetal group.

**5. (Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein X is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group and Y is a carboxylic acid group.

**6. (Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the solution has a concentration of 0.5-60 wt % of the carboxylic acid compound.

**7. (Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 6, wherein the concentration is 5-30 wt %.

**8. (Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein based upon the weight of urea, the concentration of the carboxylic acid compound is 100-10,000 ppm.

**9. (Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein during the addition of the solution the temperature of the urea is 30-90°C.

**10. (Currently Amended)** A urea granule ~~having~~ consisting of a compound of the general formula XY-Z-COOH, in which Z is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon with 1-25 carbon atoms, and X and Y are selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom and a polar organic functional group, on the surface of the granule.

**11. (Previously Presented)** The urea granule according to claim 10, wherein Z has 2-5 carbon atoms.

**12. (Previously Presented)** The urea granule according to claim 10, wherein the polar organic functional group is selected from the group consisting of a carboxylic acid group, a hydroxyl group, an amine group and an acetal group.

**13. (Previously Presented)** The urea granule according to claim 11, wherein X is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group and Y is a carboxylic acid group.

**14. (Previously Presented)** A urea granule produced by the method according to claim 1.

**15. (Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein based upon the weight of urea, the concentration of the carboxylic acid compound is 500-3,000 ppm.

**16. (Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, wherein during the addition of the solution the temperature of the urea is 40-70°C.